

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 111542Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5448
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19182

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, UR, UK
SUBJECT: UK CULTURAL EVENT TO PROCEED DESPITE TRIALS

1. UK EMBOFF HAS ALERTED US TO IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "BRITISH WEEK IN NOVOSIBIRSK" TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S PARTICIPATION (IN THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY) AS WELL AS A MUSICAL GROUP AND OTHER CULTURAL OFFERINGS FROM LONDON. UK EMBOFF SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE EVENT DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING DISPLEASURE AT THE SOVIET TRIALS WHICH HAS BEEN REGISTERED IN VARIOUS OTHER WAYS. HE IMPLIED THE UK EMBASSY WAS INITIALLY SURPRISED AT THE GO-AHEAD GIVEN BY LONDON BUT THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S PARTICIPATION WAS INTENDED TO DRAW TO THE EVENT SOMEWHAT LESS ATTENTION THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
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LONDON. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHO WOULD HAVE OPENED THE EVENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE TRIALS.

2. COMMENT: SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO RANK HMG CLOSE BEHIND THE USG AS A LEADING CULPRIT IN THE WEST'S "HYPOCRITICAL CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THE SOVIET UNION. BY PERMITTING THIS PREVIOUSLY

SCHEDULED EVENT TO GO ON WITHOUT MAJOR SURGERY OR
DELAY, THE BRITISH MAY HOPE THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA
WILL EASE UP SOMEWHAT. TOON

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Message Attributes

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